

Minutes of the Community Development Committee
Public Meeting
October 14, 2010
Town Room, Town Hall

Attendance:

Present: Members: Claude Tellier (CT), Mary Jane Laus (MJL), Jana McClure (JM), Nancy Gregg (NG), Staff Nate Malloy (NM), SB Liaison, Alisa Brewer (AB).

Guests: Hwei-Ling Greeney (H-LG), Reikka Simula (RS), Ellie Gatti (EG), +one unnamed

Call to Order

11:40 a.m.

Announcements

NM discussed the mini-entitlement requirements under which the current CDBG proposals will be submitted. The Community Development Strategy and accompanying list of priorities need to be shortened to a maximum of seven pages. The committee recommended that NM shorten the document by eliminating redundancies and overlap.

A question was raised about public comments (H-LG) made at the 9-28 public hearing, in particular, regarding (permanent) housing and services for the homeless and extremely low income. The Community Development Committee addressed the questions, noting that the answers were contained within the list of priorities and areas within the Community Development Strategy.

The committee considered a change in format for future public meetings, adding a 'Public Comments' section to the agenda with a specified time limit, similar to the Select Board, to keep the meeting on track and ensure that all topics are covered.

Minutes

Meeting minutes from last Public Hearing are coming from NG.

Old Business

The Committee reviewed the 2011 grant application process, noting that with the shortened deadline of December 10th, there is very little turn-around time for staff to receive all the public input and recommendations from the Committee and then submit the Town's application to the state. Committee also had concerns about the timely expenditure requirements of spending \$200,000 by December 10th. It was agreed that in 2011, the RFP solicitation and public hearing process must be started much earlier, preferably in June or July. ACTV was mentioned as a possible vehicle for advertising the RFP's.

Discussion turned to the need for a spread sheet on the town Website that clearly lists the Committee's recommendations, what the town approved, the dollar amount, and history of the projects. Any unused monies will revert to the state.

Other

Olympia Drive is on target: the Land Development Agreement is in place with the developer and preliminary site plans and architectural drawings are underway. The committee discussed its role and involvement in such projects, noting that once they make their recommendations, they are no longer involved directly in the process.

It is expected that the Town Manager will present his priorities, along with the Committee's recommendations, to the Select Board at their mid-November meeting.

New Business

The 2011 Community Development Strategy and List of Priorities were discussed. Any changes to the Strategy and List of Priorities may be made after the Public Hearing to be held Monday, November 1, 2010, at which time the public will have an opportunity to comment on these documents. Ownership of these documents by the Committees is a "little fuzzy." NM recommended that for next year, the CDC collaborate with the Planning Board or a subcommittee of the board, and seek input from other boards and committees early in the process.

JM suggests a need for an additional list, broken down into the section categories of the Strategy, which reflect the chapters of the Master Plan. The categories would not be exclusive and many priorities would be included in multiple categories. The original prioritized list will be retained, while this additional list would be an in-house tool.

It was reiterated that applications for both social service and non-social service (capital) activities be submitted to the Office of Conservation and Development by the deadline of October 29, 2010, and that applicants need to present their proposals at the Public Hearing on November 1, 2010. The applications and guidance documents are available on the Town's website. Jana recommended that applicants make use of the willingness of Town staff to help applicants with their applications.

The following paragraph is excerpted from the Sept 21, Public Meeting minutes:
(The format of the November 1st public hearing will be to let each applicant present their proposal to the CDC within a specified time (i.e. 5-7 minutes). Proposals should also be submitted in writing, using the applications available online. Questions and comments from the public will be heard after all applicants have presented.)

H-LG requested that the committee focus on housing: (1) emergency shelter for the homeless, and (2) permanent housing, such as enhanced SRO's. She also disagrees with the placement of items in the list of priorities, suggesting the social service items and housing items need to be increased in priority to reflect the strategy and community input. The Committee discussed these suggestions and agreed to reorder the list of priorities.

The CDC recommends that the Committee on Homelessness (COH) come up with possible projects to address the current RFP's due at the end of October, and that they identify projects for next year.

JM suggested that next year the CDC meet quarterly with other Town boards and committees that are likely to submit proposals, such as the Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee, Committee on Homelessness, Disability Access Advisory Committee, and the Public Works Committee. These meetings would help identify community priorities and target areas & populations.

Material Distributed at Meeting (Available upon request in the Planning Department)

Agenda

Draft 2011 Community Development Strategy

Next Meeting

Public hearing – November 1, 2010 5:30 p.m. Lower Meeting Room in the Bangs Center. The principal purpose is to hear applicants describe their project proposals.

Public Meeting – November 10, 2010 1:30 p.m. Town Room, Town Hall. As required by statute, this meeting is a chance for the public to comment on the Committee's recommendations and one last chance to amend strategies to fit town needs.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.